## **Chapter 9**

## **Celestial Observations and Sight Reduction Methods**

### Introduction

In this chapter you will learn the methods that are necessary to complete a day's work in navigation. These include several ways of finding gyrocompass error, reducing sunlines and moonlines, finding latitude by LAN or Polaris, and reducing sights of stars and planets.

We've already covered the basics of celestial navigation in chapter 6. You may want to occassionally refer back to that material to have a clearer understanding of this material. We will discuss the procedure aspect of performing and reducing celestial observations only. As you become more familiar with this subject, you are advised to increase your knowledge by studying references such as *Dutton's Navigation* and *Piloting* and *Bowditch* Pub No. 9.

#### **Objectives**

The material in this chapter will enable the student to:

- Determine gyrocompass error by azimuth of the Sun and Polaris, and amplitude of the Sun.
- Reduce sights taken on the Sun, Moon, stars, and planets using H.O.
   229, Sight Reduction Tables for Marine Navigation, and the Nautical Almanac.
- Reduce sights taken on the stars using H.O. 249, Sight Reduction Tables for Air Navigation and the Air Almanac.
- Determining latitude by local apparent noon.
- Plot celestial LOPs based on assumed positions.

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## **Methods For Finding Gyrocompass Error**

#### Introduction

There are three celestial methods used by QMs for finding gyrocompass error. They are:

- Azimuth of the Sun
- Azimuth of Polaris
- Amplitude of the Sun

In each case, you are required to gather data for use in computation. This data may be in the form of sights from the sextant, time in GMT, DR Lat. and Long., and so forth. For each celestial method, we will begin with gathering the necessary data and then working the solutions.

# Azimuth of the Sun

**You** must know the following values to determine gyrocompass errror by azimuth:

#### **Gathering Data**

- Time of the actual observation
- Date of the observation
- DR position at the time of observation
- Azimuth (gyro bearing of the Sun)

**Rule:** Due to the elevation of the Sun, azimuths should be taken in mid-morning or mid-afternoon.

Use the following table to gather the data to work the azimuth solution. You must have a recorder present to mark and record the exact time of the observation

Step	Action
1.	Obtain a time tick from WRN-6 or chronometer with a stopwatch.
2.	Break out and place the azimuth circle on the gyro repeater closest to the Sun.
3.	Align the Sun in the reflecting mirror in a manner so that the rays reflect back through the prism housing and onto the compass card.
4.	When each spirit level is leveled, mark the time and record the reflected gyro bearing from the compass card to the nearest 0.1°. Note: This is a difficult procedure in heavy seas; however, if the azimuth circle is not level, errors will occur.
5.	Repeat steps 4 and 5 a minimum of three times.

#### **Gathering Data**

Now that we have three good observations, we need only to find the DR position for each obvservation to have the data we need to find the azimuth of the Sun. We will work an example problem using OPNAV strip form AZIMUTH BY PUB 229. For brevity, we'll work on one observation only. In actual practice, it's faster to work out all three at the same time by placing the strip form on the left and working the three observations in the next three columns. The purpose of taking at least three observations is to allow us to find errors when taking observations and averaging gyro error. This process normally provides the best results in determining total gyro error.

Besides the data from the observation, you'll need the *Nautical Almanac* and Pub 229 to solve the problem.

From the strip form and publication we will find out exactly what the gyro bearing *should* read, then we will compare that value to the actual gyro bearing from the observation. The result will be our gyro error.

# Example Problem

For our example problem, we will assume that we have gathered the following data:

Date: 19 Nov 84 DR Lat.: 33° 37' N DR Long.: 112° 39' E ZT: 15h 42m 22s Gyro Brg: 231.6°

On the following pages, you will find the page laid out with the blank strip form on the left, the action steps in the middle, and the result on the right.

OPNAV 3130/ Azimuth by 229	ACTION	Completed Strip Form
Date:	Enter the date.	19 NOV 84
DR Posit	Enter the DR position.	33°37'N - 112°39'E
Body	Enter the name of the body observed.	Sun
GMT	Enter the time GMT.	07h42m22s
GHA(h)	Enter the GHA hour value from the Nautical Almanac (fig. 9-1)	288° 38.9'
Increment (m/s)	Enter the minutes and seconds value from the <i>Nautical Almanac</i> (fig. 9-2).	10° 35.5'
Total GHA	Add GHA(h) and increments (m/s).	299° 14.4'
DR Long +E, -W (+ - 360° if needed)	Enter the DR Longitude, add east or subtract west.	112° 39.0'E
LHA	LHA= Total GHA +E or -W DR Long.	51° 53.4'
Tab Dec	Enter the tabulated declination for 07 hours on the Sun column from the <i>Nautical Alamanac</i> .	S 19° 31.2'
d# / D Corr <sup>n</sup>	The d# is found at the bottom of the Sun Dec column, in this case it is $+0.6$ . It is assigned a + because Dec is increasing (0700= 19°31.2 0800= 19°31.8). You MUST assign a + or - to the d#.  The D corr is found on the Increments and Corrections page for 42m 22s. Look under the $v$ or $d$ column for the d# (0.6) and record the Corr <sup>n</sup> value (0.4). The D Corr <sup>n</sup> assumes the same sign as the d# .	+0.6 / +0.4
True Dec	Apply the D Corr <sup>n</sup> to Tab Dec	S 19° 31.6
DR Lat same or contrary	Enter the whole degree of latitude and determine if it is named (N or S) as True Dec In this case, Lat. is N and Dec is S. so it is contrary.	N 33° contrary

Up to this point, we have worked the strip form to obtain three values, LHA, True Dec., and DR Latitude. We now have everything we need to enter Pub 229. Pub 229 is entered using whole degrees of Lat., LHA, and Dec. only. We will also interpolate the leftover values using Pub 229.

1984 NOVEMBER 17, 18, 19 (SAT., SUN., MC	JN.	)
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23	168 36.6 40.4 S.D. 16.2 <i>d</i> 0.6	207 21.4 10.4 3 24.4 16.4 60.3 S.D. 16.2 16.3 16.4	17 18 19	15 05 14 14 53 14 14 40 14	59 11 45 47 11 45	07 01 19 27 07 52 20 17 08 42 21 07	24 25 26	<b>③</b>

Figure 9-1. Nautical Almanac right-hand daily pages.

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<b>42</b> "	n			IN	CR	EME	NTS A	ND C	ORRE	стю	NS			43 <sup>m</sup>
42	SUN PLANETS	ARIES	MOON	or Cor	r or	Corr	or Corm	43	SUN PLANETS	ARIES	MOON	or Corr	or Corm	or Corra
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05 06 07 08 09	10 31-3 10 31-5 10 31-8 10 32-0 10 32-3	10 33-0 10 33-2 10 33-5 10 33-7 10 34-0	10 03-0 10 03-2 10 03-4	0-5 D 0-6 D 0-7 D 0-8 D 0-9 D	6 6	4-7 7-4-7 4-4-8 4-4-9	12·5 8·9 12·6 8·9 12·7 9·0 12·8 9·1 12·9 9·1	05 06 07 08 09	10 47-0 10 47-3	10 490	10 17·5 10 17·8	0.5 0.4 0.6 0.4 0.7 0.5 0.8 0.6 0.9 0.7	6-6 4-8 6-7 4-9 6-8 4-9 6-9 5-0	12.5 91 12.6 91 12.7 92 12.8 93 12.9 94
10 11 12 13 14	10 32-5 10 32-8 10 33-0 10 33-3 10 33-5	10 34-2 10 34-5 10 34-7 10 35-0 10 35-2 10 35-5	10 03-7 10 03-9 10 04-2 10 04-4 10 04-6	1-0 0 1-1 0 1-2 0 1-3 0 1-4 1	B 7:	50 2 51 3 52 4 52	13-0 9-2 13-1 9-3 13-2 9-4 13-3 9-4 13-4 9-5 13-5 9-6	10 11 12 13 14 15	10 47-5 10 47-8 10 48-0 10 48-3 10 48-5	10 50-0 10 50-3	10 18-0 10 18-2 10 18-5 10 18-7 10 19-0	1-0 0-7 1-1 0-8 1-2 0-9 1-3 0-9 1-4 1-0	7-1 5-1 7-2 5-2 7-3 5-3 7-4 5-4	13-0 9-4 13-1 9-5 13-2 9-6 13-3 9-6 13-4 9-7 13-5 9-8
16 17 18 19	10 33-8 10 34-0 10 34-3 10 34-5 10 34-8	10 357 10 360 10 362 10 365	10 04-9 10 05-1 10 05-4 10 05-6 10 05-8 10 06-1	1.5 1.1.7 1.1.8 1.1.9 1.0	1 7 7 7 3 7 7 3 7 7 7 9 7 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9	54 7 5-5 8 5-5 9 5-6	13-5 9-6 13-6 9-6 13-7 9-7 13-8 9-8 13-9 9-8 14-0 9-9	16 17 18 19 20	10 493 10 495		10 19-2 10 19-4 10 19-7 10 19-9 10 20-2	1.5 1.1 1.6 1.2 1.7 1.2 1.8 1.3 1.9 1.4	7-6 5-5 7-7 5-6 7-8 5-7 7-9 5-7	13-5 9-8 13-6 9-9 13-7 9-9 13-8 10-0 13-9 10-1 14-0 10-2
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26 27 28 29	10 36-5 10 36-8 10 37-0 10 37-3 10 37-5	10 382 10 385 10 387 10 390 10 392	10 07-5 10 07-7 10 08-0	2-6 1- 2-7 1- 2-8 2- 2-9 2- 3-0 2-	8 a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a	6 61 7 62 4 62 9 63	14-6 10-3 14-7 10-4 14-8 10-5 14-9 10-6 15-0 10-6	26 27 28 29 30		10 53-3 10 53-5 10 53-8	10 21-8	2-6 1-9 2-7 2-0 2-8 2-0 2-9 2-1 3-0 2-2	8-6 6-2 8-7 6-3 8-8 6-4 8-9 6-5	14-6 10-6 14-7 10-7 14-8 10-7 14-9 10-8 15-0 10-9
31 32 33 34 35	10 37-8 10 38-0 10 38-3 10 38-5 10 38-8	10 39-5 10 39-7 10 40-0 10 40-2 10 40-5	10 08-7 10 08-9 10 09-2 10 09-4 10 09-7	3-1 2- 3-2 2- 3-3 2- 3-4 2- 3-5 2-	3 .	1 64 2 65 3 66 4 67	15-1 10-7 15-2 10-8 15-3 10-8 15-4 10-9 15-5 11-0	31 32 33 34 35	10 52-8 10 53-0 10 53-3 10 53-5	10 54-8	10 23-0 10 23-3 10 23-5 10 23-7 10 24-0	3-1 2-2 3-2 2-3 3-3 2-4 3-4 2-5 3-5 2-5	9-2 6-7 9-3 6-7 9-4 6-8	15-1 10-9 15-2 11-0 15-3 11-1 15-4 11-2 15-5 11-2
36 37 38 39 40	10 390 10 393 10 395 10 398 10 400	10 40-7 10 41-0 10 41-3 10 41-5 10 41-8	10 09-9 10 10-1 10 10-4 10 10-6 10 10-8	3-6 2 3-7 2 3-8 2 3-9 2 4-0 2	6 9 7 9 8 9 8 10	-6 68 -7 69 -4 69 -9 7.0 -0 7.1	15-6 11-1 15-7 11-1 15-8 11-2 15-9 11-3 16-0 11-3	36 37 38 39 40	10 54-0 10 54-3 10 54-5 10 54-8 10 55-0	10 560 10 563	10 24-4 10 24-7	3-6 2-6 3-7 2-7 3-8 2-8 3-9 2-8 4-0 2-9	9-7 7-0 9-6 7-1 9-9 7-2	15-6 11-3 15-7 11-4 15-8 11-5 15-9 11-5 16-0 11-6
41 42 43 44 45	10 40-3 10 40-5 10 40-8 10 41-0 10 41-3	10 42-0 10 42-3 10 42-5 10 42-8 10 43-0	10 12-0	4-1 2 4-2 3 4-3 3 4-4 3 4-5 3	0 10 0 10 1 10 2 10	·2 7·2 ·3 7·3 ·4 7·4	16-1 11-4 16-2 11-5 16-3 11-5 16-4 11-6 16-5 11-7	41 42 43 44 45	10 55-3 10 55-5 10 55-8 10 56-0 10 56-3	10 57-5 10 57-8 10 58-0	10 256 10 259 10 261 10 264	4-2 3-6 4-3 3-1 4-3 3-2 4-5 3-3	10-2 7-4 10-3 7-5 10-4 7-5 10-5 7-6	16-1 11-7 16-2 11-7 16-3 11-8 16-4 11-9 16-5 12-0
46 47 48 49 50		10 43-3 10 43-5 10 43-8 10 44-0 10 44-3	10 13-0 10 13-2	5-0 3	3 10 4 10 5 10 5 11	·7 7·6 • 7·7 • 7·7 • 7·8	16-6 11-8 16-7 11-8 16-6 11-9 16-9 12-0 27-0 12-0		10 57-5	10 58-5 10 58-8 10 59-0 10 59-3	10 268 10 27-1 10 27-3 10 27-5		10-7 7-8 10-6 7-8 10-9 7-9 11-0 8-0	16.6 12.0 16.7 12.1 16.6 12.2 16.9 12.3 17-0 12.3
51 52 53 54 55	10 42-8 10 43-0 10 43-3 10 43-5	10 44-5 10 44-8 10 45-0 10 45-3 10 45-5	10 13-5 10 13-7 10 13-9 10 14-2 10 14-4	5·1 3 5·2 3 5·3 3	6 11 7 11 8 11 8 11	1 7-9	17-1 12-1 17-2 12-2 17-3 12-3 17-4 12-3	51 52 53 54	10 57-8 10 58-0 10 58-3	10 59-6 10 59-8 11 00-1 11 00-3	10 27-8 10 28-0 10 28-3 10 28-5	5-1 3-7 5-2 3-8 5-3 3-8 5-4 3-9	11 · 1 · 8 · 0 11 · 2 · 8 · 1 11 · 3 · 8 · 2 11 · 4 · 8 · 3 11 · 5 · 8 · 3	17-1 12-4 17-2 12-5 17-3 12-5 17-4 12-6 17-5 12-7
56 57 58 59 60	10 44-3 10 44-5 10 44-8	10.458 10.460 10.463 10.465		5-6 4 5-7 4 5-8 4	0 11 0 11 1 11 2 11	6 82 7 83 4 84	17-6 12-5 17-7 12-5 17-8 12-6 17-9 12-7	56 57 58 59	10 59-0 10 59-3 10 59-5 10 59-8	11 00-8 11 01-1 11 01-3 11 01-6	10 290 10 292 10 295 10 297	5-6 4-1 5-7 4-1 5-8 4-2 5-9 4-3	11-6 8-4 11-7 8-5 11-8 8-6 11-9 8-6	17-6 12-8 17-7 12-8 17-8 12-9 17-6 13-0 18-6 13-1
					1								1	26NVM033

Figure 9-2. Nautical Almanac Increments and Corrections page.

Look at the left-hand column of the stip form below. Notice that you'll find values for Dec. Inc/Z Diff, Lat Inc/Z Diff, and LHA Inc/Z Diff. This is where we enter the leftover values from our whole degrees of DR Lat, Declination, and LHA. To do this, we must convert our leftover values into tenths of degrees by dividing each by 60 and rounding to the closest tenth of a degree. Finding Z Diff is a matter of inspecting Pub 229 (see figs. 9-3 and 9-4) in the following manner:

For Dec Inc/Z Diff note the values for the whole degree of dec that you entered the table with and the next high dec, then find the difference. Here are the values for our example problem: Dec  $19^{\circ}$  Z = 129.1 Dec  $20^{\circ}$  Z = 129.8. The difference between the values is 0.7. Since the value is increasing between  $19^{\circ}$  and  $20^{\circ}$ , we assign it a positive value (+).

Repeat the same procedure for finding Z Diff for Latitude and LHA. In other words, compare lat.  $33^{\circ}$  and lat  $34^{\circ}$ . Then compare LHA  $51^{\circ}$  and  $52^{\circ}$ .

OPNAV 3130/ Azimuth by 229	ACTION	Completed Strip Form
Tab Z	Enter Pub 229 with entering arguments of Lat 33°, LHA 51°, and Dee 19°. Make sure that you enter on the portion of the page that indicates <b>LATITUDE CONTRARY TO DECLINATION.</b> Follow 19° of Dee across the page to where it falls under the 33° Latitude column and record the value for Tab Z.	129.1
Dec Inc/Z Diff	Dec. Inc (left) = 31.6' + 60 which = .53 rounded to 0.5. Compares Z's for Z Diff.	0.5 / + 0.7
Dec Corr	Multiply Dee Inc by Z Diff.	+ 0.35
Lat Inc/Z Diff	Lat Inc (left) = 37.0' + 60 which = .62 rounded to 0.6. Compares Z's for Z Diff.	0.6 / + 0.3
Lat Corr	Multiply Lat Inc by Z Diff.	+ 0.18
LHA Inc/Z Diff	LHA Inc (left) = 53.4' + 60 which = .89 rounded to 0.9. Compares Z's for Z Diff.	0.9 / - 0.7
LHA Corr	Multiply LHA Inc by 2 Diff.	- 0.63
Dec Corr	Drop the Dec Corr Down.	+ 0.35
Lat Corr	Drop the Lat Corr Down.	+ 0.18
Total corr	Add the LHA, Dec, and Lat Corr.	- 0.10

We have now accounted for our leftover values and now can find the Exact Z.

	30°	31°	32°	33°	34°	35°	36°	37°	
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Figure 9-3. Pub 229 sample page.

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Figure 9-4. Pub 229 next higher LHA to find Z Diff.

Tab Z	Drop the value from Tab Z.	129.1
Exact Z (-360)	Apply the Total Corr to Tab Z (- 0.10).	129.0
Exact Zn	On each page of Pub 229 are small notes that state:  In N. Lat. if LHA is Greater than 180 then Zn= Z if LHA is Less than 180 then Zn= 360-Z  In S. Lat. if LHA is Greater than 180 then Zn= 180-Z if LHA is Less than 180 then Zn= 180+Z  Our Lat is N. and LHA is less than 180,	231.0
	therefore Zn=360 - 129 or 231°.	
Gyro Bearing	Enter the gyro bearing from the observation.	231.6
Gyro Error	Find the difference between Exact Zn and the gyro bearing and name the error. If the gyro bearing is less than the Exact Zn, the error is easterly, if more than Exact Zn, it's westerly. Use this memory aid:  Gyro least - error east, Gyro best - error west.	0.6 West

We have now used the Sun to find the error on our gyrocompass. As stated before, a greater degree of accuracy can be obtained by making several observations and then working the solutions and averaging the results. This may seem a bit tedious, however, you may work all observations at once. This is easily accomplished by entering data in the strip form in stages.

Try this method. First enter GMT DR Lat, DR Long, GHA, Dec, and d#. Next find Incements (m/s), LHA, and True Dec. Now find your leftover values for Dee Inc, Lat Inc, and LHA Inc and enter Pub 229.

Once you have completed the solutions for all obsvervations, you can average the results. Here's an example:

Error 1 = .6 W Error 2 = .5 W Error 3 = .7 W for a total of  $1.8 \div 3 = .6$  W

## **Azimuth by Polaris**

# Azimuth by Polaris

Polaris (the North Star) is always within about  $2^{\circ}$  of true north. The true azimuth of Polaris is tabulated in the *Nautical Almanac* in the Polaris Tables for northern latitudes up to  $65^{\circ}$ .

**Gathering Information:** The entering arguments for the Polaris Tables are the LHA of Aries (GHA of Aries plus east longitude or minus west longitude) and latitude (at intervals of 5°, 10° or 20°). An extract from the *Nautical Almanac* Polaris azimuth table, which appears at the foot of the Polaris Tables, is shown in figure 9-5. As you can see, the interpolation can be done by visual inspection of the appropriate LHA and latitude.

The normal use of Polaris for obtaining compass error is when your ship is in the lower northern latitudes. This allows you to take a bearing on Polaris using the telescopic alidade. Since the computation and interpolation of azimuth by Polaris are relatively simple, we will not go into step-by-step procedures in this text.

	FOR	DETERA	AINING	LATIT	UDE FR	STAR) om sex	TANT	LES, ALTITU	DE ANI	FOR A	ZIMUT	275 H
L.H.A. ARIES	120°- 129°	130°- 139°	140°- 149°	150°- 159°	160°- 169°	170°- 179°	180°→ 189°	190°-	200°- 209°	210°- 219°	220°- 229°	230°- 239°
Lat.		l	l	l	l	AZIM	UTH					1
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0	359.2	359.2	359.2	359.3	359.4	359.5	359.6	359.7	359.9	0.0	0.2	0.3
20	359·I	359.2	359.2	359.3	359.4	359.5	359.6	359.7	359.9	0.0	0.2	0.3
40	358.9	359.0	359.0	359∙1	359-2	359.3	359.5	359.7	359.8	0.0	0.3	0.4
50	358.7	358-8	358.8	358.9	359-1	359.2	359.4	359.6	359.8	0.0	0.3	0.5
55	358.6	358.6	358.7	358.8	359.0	359·I	359.3	359.6	359.8	0.0	0.3	0.5
60	358.4	358.4	358.5	358.6	358.8	359.0	359.2	359.5	359.8	0.0	0.3	0.6
65	358-1	358-1	358-2	358.4	358.6	358.8	359.1	359.4	359.7	0.0	0.4	0.7

Figure 9-5. Extract from the *Nautical Almanac* Polaris Tables.

## **Amplitude of the Sun**

### **Amplitude**

An amplitude of the Sun or other celestial body can be used to determine gyro error. An amplitude (A) is the arc of the horizon between the prime vertical circle (the vertical circle through the east end west points of the horizon) and the observed body. The prime vertical circle may be true or magnetic depending upon which east or west points are involved. If the body is observed when its center is on the celestial horizon, the amplitude can be taken directly from table 27 of *Bowditch*, Volume II.

#### **Horizions**

The celestial horizon differs from the one you see (the visible horizon) because it runs through the center of Earth. There are a lot of computations that must be done to determine the celestial horizon of a body, but for now we will just say that it is the horizon that a navigator uses for all celestial computations.

When the center of the Sun is on the celestial horizon, its lower limb (lower edge) is about two-thirds of the diameter of the Sun above the visible horizon. When the center of the Moon is on the celestial horizon, its upper limb (upper edge) is on the visible horizon.

Figure 9-6 shows the relationship of the visible horizon to the celestial horizon. When planets and stars are on the celestial horizon, they are a little more than one Sun diameter above the visible horizon.

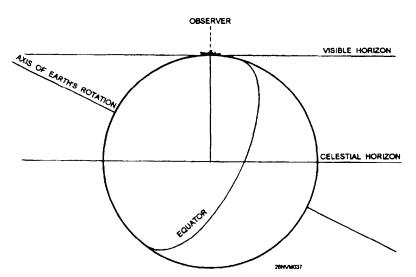


Figure 9-6. The visible and celestial horizons.

## Amplitude of the Sun, Continued

# Labeling the Amplitude

The amplitude of a body is given the prefix E (east) if the body is rising and the prefix W (west) if the body is setting. Additionally, the amplitude of a body is given the suffix N (north) if the body has northerly declination and the suffix S (south) if it has southerly declination.

### Finding Amplitude of the Sun Using the Celestial Horizion

As discussed above, the amplitude of a body can be taken directly from table 27 of *Bowditch*, Volume II, if the body is observed when its center is on the celestial horizon. Since the Sun is most commonly used for amplitudes, it will be the topic of our discussion.

**Gathering Information:** To observe the Sun when it is on the celestial horizon, its lower limb must be about two-thirds of the diameter above the visible horizon. You must know the Greenwich mean time (GMT) of your observation to determine the Sun's declination from the right-hand daily pages of the *Nautical Almanac*, your DR Lat. at the time of observation, and the true bearing of the Sun as observed using a telescopic alidade.

# Example Problem

The DR latitude of your ship is 51°04.6'N. The declination of the setting Sun was 19°00.4'N. Your true bearing (as observed by a telescopic alidade) to the Sun was 300°.

From this known information, we can use table 27 of *Bowditch* to determine the amplitude.

Figure 9-7 shows an excerpt from table 27. By inspection of figure 9-7, you can see that you must enter the left-hand column with your ship's DR latitude. You can also see that the Sun's declination is listed across the top of the table. Since latitude 51° and declination 19° are closest to our entering values, we determine that the amplitude of the Sun when it is on the celestial horizon is 31.2°. Now that we have the amplitude, what do we do with it? First of all, there are some basic rules that must be applied that relate to our previous discussion of the assigned prefix and suffix of an amplitude. Our amplitude was taken when the Sun was setting, and its declination name is north. Using the rules for labeling the amplitude, we label the amplitude as follows: W 31.2° N. We use W because the Sun is setting and N because the Sun's declination is N.

							BLE nplitue							
						D	eclinatie	on						
Latitude	18.0	18.5	19:0	19.5	20.0	20.5	21:0	21.5	22:0	22.5	23.0	23.5	24.0	Latitude
0 10 15 20 25	18. 0 18. 3 18. 7 19. 2 19. 9	18. 5 18. 8 19. 2 19. 7 20. 5	19. 0 19. 3 19. 7 20. 3 21. 1	19. 5 19. 8 20. 2 20. 8 21. 6	20. 0 20. 3 20. 7 21. 3 22. 2	20. 5 20. 8 21. 3 21. 9 22. 7	21. 3 21. 8	21. 5 21. 8 22. 3 23. 0 23. 9	22. 0 22. 4 22. 8 23. 5 24. 4	22. 5 22. 9 23. 3 24. 0 25. 0	23. 0 23. 4 23. 9 24. 6 25. 5	23. 5 23. 9 24. 4 25. 1 26. 1	24. 0 24. 4 24. 9 25. 6 26. 7	0 10 15 20 25
30 32 34 36 38	20. 9 21. 4 21. 9 22. 5 23. 1	21. 5 22. 0 22. 5 23. 1 23. 7	22. 1 22. 6 23. 1 23. 7 24. 4	22. 7 23. 2 23. 7 24. 4 25. 1	23. 3 23. 8 24. 4 25. 0 25. 7	23. 9 24. 4 25. 0 25. 7 26. 4	25. 6 26. 3	25. 0 25. 6 26. 2 26. 9 27. 7	25. 6 26. 2 26. 9 27. 6 28. 4	26. 2 26. 8 27. 5 28. 2 29. 1	26. 8 27. 4 28. 1 28. 9 29. 7	27. 4 28. 0 28. 7 29. 5 30. 4	28. 0 28. 7 29. 4 30. 2 31. 1	30 32 34 36 38
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45 46 47 48 49	25. 9 26. 4 26. 9 27. 5 28. 1	26. 7 27. 2 27. 7 28. 3 28. 9	28. 5 29. 1	28. 2 28. 7 29. 3 29. 9 30. 6	28. 9 29. 5 30. 1 30. 7 31. 4	29. 7 30. 3 30. 9 31. 6 32. 3	31. 1 31. 7	31. 2 31. 8 32. 5 33. 2 34. 0	32. 0 32. 6 33. 3 34. 0 34. 8	32. 8 33. 4 34. 1 34. 9 35. 7	33. 5 34. 2 35. 0 35. 7 36. 6	34. 3 35. 0 35. 8 36. 6 37. 4	35. 1 35. 8 36. 6 37. 4 38. 3	45 46 47 48 49
50 51 52 53 54	30. 9	29. 6 30. 3 31. 0 31. 8 32. 7		31. 3 32. 0 32. 8 33. 7 34. 6	32. 1 32. 9 33. 7 34. 6 35. 6	33. 0 33. 8 34. 7 35. 6 36. 6		34. 8 35. 6 36. 5 37. 5 38. 6	35. 6 36. 5 37. 5 38. 5 39. 6	36. 5 37. 5 38. 4 39. 5 40. 6	37. 4 38. 4 39. 4 40. 5 41. 7	38. 3 39. 3 40. 4 41. 5 42. 7	39. 3 40. 3 41. 3 42. 5 43. 8	50 51 52 53 54
70. 0 70. 5 71. 0 71. 5 72. 0	64. 6 67. 8 71. 7 76. 9 90. 0	68. 1 71. 9 77. 1 90. 0	72. 2 77. 2 90. 0	77. 4 90. 0	90. 0									70. 0 70. 5 71. 0 71. 5 72. 0

Figure 9-7. Excerpt from table 27.

## Amplitude of the Sun, Continued

**Finding** Amplitude of the Sun Using the Celestial Horizion, continued

With the amplitude properly labeled, we can now follow another set of rules to determine the azimuth.

#### **Rules:**

- 1. Rising Sun with north declination, subtract the amplitude from 090°
- 2. Rising Sun with south declination, add the amplitude to 090°
- 3. Setting Sun with north declination, add the amplitude to 270°
- 4. Setting Sun with south declination, subtract the amplitude from 270°

By following the rules above, our amplitude can now be converted to an azimuth as follows:

$$W31.2^{\circ}N + 270^{\circ} = 301.2^{\circ}$$

Our true bearing to the Sun was 300°. Gyro error can be determined as follows:

We find the name of the error by using our memory aid

Gyro least - error EAST, Gyro best - error WEST.

**Finding** the Visible Horizion

If the body is observed when its center is on the visible horizon, a Amplitude Using correction from table 28 of Bowditch, Volume II, is applied to the value taken from Bowditch's table 27. Refer to table 28 for step-by-step instructions.

### The Celestial LOP

#### General Information

You have seen how lines of position, obtained through bearings on terrestrial objects, are used to fix a ship's position in piloting. You know that a line of position (LOP) is a locus of possible positions of the ship. In other words, the ship's position must be somewhere along that line. A fix, by definition, is a relatively accurate determination of latitude and longitude. In practice, this position is the intersection of two or more lines of position; but often it is not the ship's exact position because you can always assume some errors in observation, plotting, and the like.

The celestial navigator must establish lines of position by applying the results of observations of heavenly bodies. A line of position obtained at one time may be used at a later time. All you need to do is move the line parallel to itself, a distance equal to the run of the ship in the interim, and in the same direction as the run. Such a line of position cannot be as accurate as a new line because the amount and direction of its movement can be determined only by the usual DR methods. If two new lines cannot be obtained, however, an old line, advanced and intersected with a new one, may be the only possible way of establishing a fix. Naturally, the distance an old line may be advanced without a substantial loss of accuracy depends on how closely the run can be reckoned.

In celestial navigation, as in piloting, you essentially are trying to establish the intersection of two or more lines of position. A single observation and the resulting LOP is insufficient to obtain a fix.

The most accurate method of obtaining a celestial fix is to take sights on many bodies in a short time. For example, it is quite common to take sights on six or more stars in a period of 15 minutes or less. Taking sights on many bodies allows the observer to identify and throw out LOPS with obvious errors.

# Determining the LOP

You might be entitled to complain that much has been said concerning what an LOP tells you, but very little has been told about how you determine it in the first place. We are coming to that part now.

The first item is to take on a heavenly body or bodies and then reduce the sights. Reducing the sights taken gives you the information you need to plot the LOP. The LOPS then gives you the resulting fix.

### The Celestial LOP

Determining the LOP, continued

Figure 9-8 illustrates the method used in establishing a single LOP by observing a star. An assumed position (AP) is selected according to certain requirements of convenience in calculating (described later). Observation of a star provides sextant altitude (hs). Sextant altitude is then corrected to obtain observed altitude (Ho). The star's altitude from the assumed position, called the computed altitude (Hc), and its azimuth angle are determined from tables by a procedure you will soon learn. The azimuth angle is then converted to azimuth. After selecting an AP, draw the azimuth through the AP. Along the azimuth, measure off the altitude intercept (difference between the observed altitude and the computed altitude). At the end of this measurement, draw a perpendicular line, which is the LOP. You must know whether altitude intercept (a) should be measured from AP toward the body or from AP measured away from the body. It is helpful to remember the initials Ho MO To, if Ho is more toward. This means that if Ho is greater than Hc measure altitude intercept (a) from AP toward the body. If Hc is greater than Ho measure altitude intercept (b) from AP away from the body.

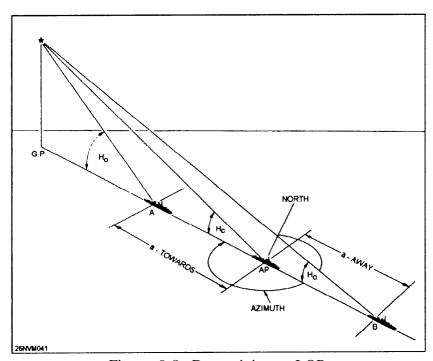


Figure 9-8. Determining a LOP.

## **Using the Sextant**

#### General

The sextant is the instrument of chief importance in celestial navigation. It is used to measure the altitude of a heavenly body above the visible horizon. Sextant altitude is corrected for various factors to determine the body's true (or corrected) altitude above the celestial horizon.

#### **Techniques**

Here are some techniques commonly used to take sights with the marine sextant. It will always be necessary to find any index error prior to taking sights; refer to chapter 8 to find index error.

Use the following step action table for the general steps to take sights on the Sun. The steps for stars and planets are basically the same, except you would omit steps 2 and 4.

Step										
1.	Hold the sextant level error.	with the horizon and determine index								
2.	may result.									
3.	Aim the sextant to a p Sun.	oint on the horizion directly below the								
4.	IF	THEN								
	the Sun is rising	Move the index arm slowly outward from the 0° position until the Sun's lower limb is just <i>below</i> the horizon.								
	the Sun is setting	Move the index arm slowly outward from the 0° position until the Sun's lower limb is just <i>above</i> the horizon.								
5.	Swing the arc. This means to gently move your hand grasping the sextant handle in a small upward arcing motion. Up to the left, then back to the right. You will see the reflected image of the Sun arc back and forth.									
6.	the sight). Continue sw micrometer drum slight	andby to mark (marking the exact time of vinging the arc while turning the arc lly until the lower limb of the Sun t that exact moment, <i>mark</i> the time of e sextant altitude.								

### **Altitude Corrections**

#### Altitude Corrections

Of the following five altitude corrections, the first three apply to observations of all celestial bodies. The last two corrections are applicable only when the observed body belongs to the solar system. Figure 9-9 illustrates the correction problem. To obtain the true altitude, you must correct the sextant altitude of any celestial body for:

- 1. <u>Index error</u>, which is the constant instrument error caused by a lack of perfect parallelism between the index mirror and horizon glass when the sextant is set at  $0^{\circ}$ .
- 2. **Refraction,** which is the deviation of rays of light from a straight line caused by Earth's atmosphere.
- 3. **Dip of the horizon,** which is the difference in direction between the visible and celestial horizons caused by the observer's height above the surface.

If the observed body belongs to the solar system, corrections must also be made for:

- 4. **Parallax,** which is caused by the proximity of bodies of the solar system to Earth, resulting in a difference in altitudes measured from the surface of Earth and from the center of Earth. Such an occurrence is not true of other heavenly bodies whose distance from Earth is considered infinite.
- 5. **Semidiameter,** which results from the nearness of bodies of the solar system, which makes it necessary to consider the observed bodies as appreciable size instead of as mere points of light; for example, stars. The sextant altitude of such a body is obtained by bringing its disk tangent to the horizon. Semidiameter correction must be applied to find the altitude of the center.

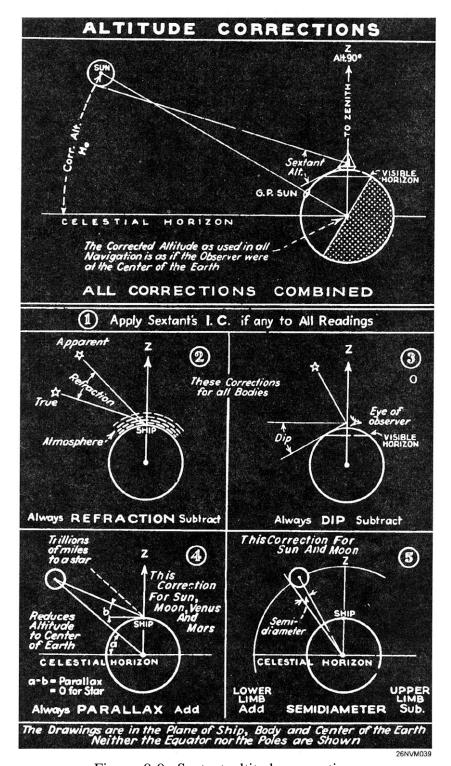


Figure 9-9. Sextant altitude corrections.

## Altitude Corrections, Continued

# **Corrections Defined**

We will explore each altitude correction in detail. Applying altitude corrections is the starting point for reducing sights for any observation.

Name	Description
Index Error	The amount of instrument error in the sextant (covered in chapter 8).
Refraction	Earth is wrapped in a blanket of atmosphere more than 50 miles deep. Density of the atmosphere, like that of the ocean, increases with depth and is greatest at the bottom, next to Earth's surface. Light rays do not follow a straight line when passing through atmosphere of different densities, but are slightly bent into a gentle arc. This phenomenon is called refraction. Refraction is defined as the deviation of light rays from a straight line caused by their passage obliquely through mediums of different density. The measure of refraction is the angular difference between the apparent rays of light from an observed celestial body and its true direction.
	The effect of refraction is always to make the observed altitude greater than the true altitude. Consequently, refraction correction is always subtracted from the sextant altitude. Since refraction is caused by the oblique passage of rays through the atmosphere, rays from a body in the observer's zenith, intersecting the atmosphere at right angles, are not refracted. Maximum refraction occurs when a body is on the horizon, amounting then to between 34 and 39 minutes of arc. The amount of refractions depends on atmospheric conditions. Density of the atmosphere varies with barometric pressure and temperature. Refraction varies with density and also with the body's altitude. Because refraction varies with atmospheric conditions, and the effect of atmospheric conditions at low altitudes cannot be estimated with complete accuracy, observations of bodies below 10° should be regarded with suspicion. Refraction has no effect on the azimuth of a celestial body because it takes place entirely in the vertical plane of passage of the light rays.
Dip	The higher an observer's position is above the surface of the Earth, the more he/she must lower (or dip) the line of vision to see the horizon. Logically, then, all altitude observations must be corrected for the height of eye. Refer again to figure 9-9, and you will see why a dip correction is always subtracted.  Failure to correct for dip from a height of 10 feet will result in an error
	of 3 miles in a line of position. From the bridge of the average destroyer, the resulting error would be approximately 10 miles.

## Altitude Corrections, Continued

Name	Description
Parallax	Parallax is the difference between the altitude of a body, as measured from Earth's center, and its altitude (corrected for refraction and dip) as measured from Earth's surface. Altitude from the center of Earth is bound to be greater than from the surface. Consequently parallax is always a plus correction.
	Parallax increases from 0° for a body directly overhead to a maximum for a body on the horizon. In the latter instance, it is called horizontal parallax (HP). Parallax of the Moon is both extreme and varied because of its changing distance from Earth in its passage through its orbit. Parallax of the Sun is small; parallax of the planets is even smaller. For the stars, parallax is so tiny it is negligible.
Semidiameter	The true altitude of a body is measured to the center of that body. Because the Sun and Moon are of appreciable size, the usual practice is to observe the lower limb. Therefore, semidiameter correction must be added. It follows, then, that if the upper limb of either body is observed, the semidiameter correction is subtractive. Semidiameter correction amounts to about 16 minutes of arc for either the Sun or Moon. Stars are considered as points, and they require no semidiameter correction. When observing a planet, the center of the planet is visually estimated by the observer, so there is never a semidiameter correction.

#### Remarks

In concluding the subject of altitude corrections, remember that **some tables** for altitude corrections (the *Nautical Almanac*, for example) combine two or more of the corrections for refraction, parallax, and semidiameter.

The correction for height of eye (dip) appears in a separate table for use with all bodies. Index error, which is impossible to include in such tables, should always be determined, recorded, marked plus or minus, and applied before any of the tabulated corrections.

## **Altitude Corrections, Continued**

### **Strip Forms**

The OPNAV Strip Form 3530/30; H.O 229; Nautical Almanac are used to reduce sights for stars, planets, the Sun, and the Moon. The altitude corrections for each are the same except an additional correction is required for the Moon and planets. Reducing sights using this strip form is a process that can be broken down into the following stages:

Stage	Description
1.	Applying altitude corrections to find Ho (height observed).
2.	Using GMT to find LHA to enter Pub 229 with.
3.	Finding True Dee to enter Pub 229 with.
4.	Entering Pub 229 to find total corrections to apply to Ho to find Hc (height computed) Intercept, and Zn.

# to Find Ho

Steps to Follow Use the following table to find Ho for any celestial body. Since we will be working several example problems, refer back to this table to find Ho.

Strip Form Pub 229 Naut	Example problem to find Ho	Complete Strip
Alm	Action	Form Pub 229 Naut Alm
Body	Enter the symbol of the body.	SUN
GMT	Enter the GMT of the actual sight.	09 15 38
IC	Enter the value of the index correction.	- 1.0
D	Enter the dip correction (height of eye) from the inside cover of the <i>Nautical Almanac</i> .	- 6.9
Sum	Total the IC and D correction.	- 7.9
hs	Enter the uncorrected sextant altitude from the sight.	25° 46.9'
ha	Apply the sum to hs.	25° 39.0'
Alt Corr	Use ha to enter the altitude correction tables of the <i>Nautical Almanac</i> .	+ 14.3'
Add'l Corr Moon Hp/corr	Add any additional corrections for the Moon or planets.	N/A
Но	Apply altitude and add'l corr to ha.	25° 53.3'

## **How to Reduce a Sunline Using Pub 229**

### Gather Information

As with any celestial observation, you must gather data to reduce to an LOP. With a sextant and recorder you will need the following: date/GMT of sight, DR position, sextant altitude (hs), height of eye of the observer, and IC correction.

#### **Procedure**

For our example we will use the following:

Date: 31 March 1984 GMT: 09 15 38 Lat: 36° 32.8'N Long: 018° 10.0' W

hs: 25° 46.9' IC: - 1.0

Hgt of Eye: 50 ft

After applying altitude corrections we have determined Ho =  $25^{\circ}$  53.3'.

We can now use the Pub 229 strip form to complete the process of reducing; at this point we have completed stage 1. We can move on to the next stage of finding LHA.

Notice that to find LHA, we follow the same steps as we did for our azimuth of the Sun problem only slightly different. Here's the key difference. We want to arrive at an even number LHA. To do this, we will use an assumed longitude. This step will help us in interpolation later in this problem. There is a catch though; the following rule must be adhered to when finding an assumed longitude.

**Rule:** The assumed longitude used as an assumed position must be within 30' of the original DR longitude.

Trick of the trade: When finding your assumed longitude, simply drop the minutes of total GHA down, then add the whole degree of longitude that is within 30' of the DR longitude. Look at our example problem where we dropped the 52.2' down from the total GHA. If we were to use the 18° from the original DR long. of 18° 10.0, which would be 18° 52.2' it would be more than 30', so we changed the 18° to 17° and all's well.

Let's begin working our problem on the next page.

# How to Reduce a Sunline Using Pub 229, Continued

OPNAV 3130/30 Pub 229 Naut Alm	ACTION	Completed Strip Form					
Но	Apply altitude corrections to find.	25° 53.3'					
GHA(h)	HA(h) Enter the GHA hour value from the <i>Nautical Almanac</i> .						
Increment (m/s)	Enter the minutes and seconds value from the <i>Nautical Almanac</i> .	3° 54.5'					
Total GHA	Add GHA(h) and Increments (m/s).	317° 52.2'					
v/v corr SHA	ENTER SHA for stars or planets only.	STARS and PLANETS ONLY					
<i>a</i> Long (+E, -W) (+ - 360° if needed)	Enter the assumed DR longitude to arrive at an even degree of LHA, add east and subtract west.	17° 52.2'W					
LHA	LHA= Total GHA + (v/v or SHA for star and planets) +E or -W DR Long.	300° 00.0'					
Tab Dee	Enter the tabulated declination for 07 hours on the Sun column from <i>Nautical Almanac</i> .	N 4° 17.3'					
d# / D Corr <sup>n</sup>	The d# is found at the bottom of the Sun Dee column; in this case it is +1.0. It is assigned a + because dec is increasing.  The D corr is found on the Increments and	+0.6 / +0.3'					
	Corrections page for 15m38s. Look under the $v$ or $d$ column for the d# (1.0) and record the Corr <sup>n</sup> value (0.4). The D Corr <sup>n</sup> assumes the same sign as the d#.						
True Dec	Apply the D Corr <sup>n</sup> to Tab Dec	N 4° 17.6'					
DR Lat same or contrary	Enter the whole degree of latitude and determine if it is named (N or S) as True Dec. In this case lat. is N and Dee is N, so it is same.	N 37° same					

We have finished stages 2 and 3 and can move on to our final stage.

## How to Reduce a Sunline Using Pub 229, Continued

OPNAV 3130/30 Pub 229 Naut Alm	ACTION	Completed Strip Form
Dec Inc /d	Dec Inc = True Dec min. only / d = d from Pub 229 entered with whole degrees of LHA, Dec, and Lat. (See fig. 9-10.)	17.6 / +38.1
Tens / DSD	Enter from the Pub 229 interpolation tables located on the inside of the front and back cover. (See fig. 9-11.)	+ 8.8
Units / DSD corr	Same as above.	+ 2.4
Total Corr	Total of tens and units.	+ 11.2
Hc (Tab)	Enter from Pub 229.	26° 07.5'
Hc (Comp)	Apply Total Corr to Hc (Tab).	26° 18.7'
Но	Drop Ho down from the top of the form.	25° 53.3'
a	Subtract the higher value of either Hc(Comp) or Ho from the other. In this case, Ho is subtracted from Hc(Comp).  The A means away. We will fully explain Towards and Away when we plot the LOP.	A 25.4
Z	Enter from Pub 229. Apply the rules for 2 just as with our azimuth problem.	105.8
Zn	LHA is greater than 180 so Zn = Z.	105.8

We have now completed the sight reduction solution for a sunline. The goal was to obtain an LOP. Where is the LOP you ask? Everything we need is right here. We will use the Zn (true bearing), a (intercept), and assumed position to plot our LOP. Let's move on to that task right now.

## How to Reduce a Sunline Using Pub 229, Continued

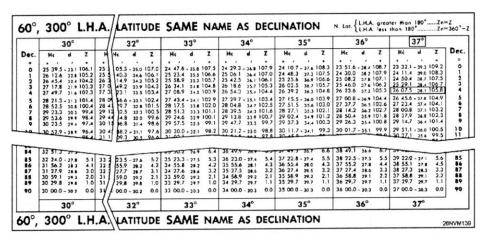


Figure 9-10. Excerpt from Pub 229.

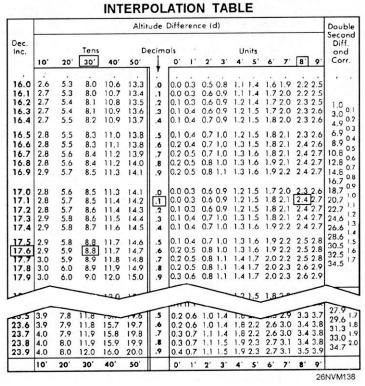


Figure 9-11. Interpolation table from the inside cover of Pub 229.

## **Plotting One or More LOPs**

### **Procedure**

Follow the steps in the table and refer to the accompanying figures to plot LOPs.

Step	Action
1.	Plot the AP (assumed position). This is the whole degree of latitude and the assumed longitude. In our example problem this would be Lat 37° 00.0' N Long 017° 52.2' W.
2.	Lay off the azimuth line (Zn) from the AP toward or away from the body, depending on whether the observed altitude (Ho) is greater or less than the computed altitude (Hc).
3.	Measure in the proper direction, along the azimuth line, the difference between the observed and the computed altitude in miles and tenths of miles. This is the value of a or intercept.
4.	Draw a line at the extremity of a, perpendicular (add 90° to Zn) to the azimuth line. At the time of observation, this perpendicular line is the LOP.
5.	Label the LOP with the time of observation and the name of the observed body.

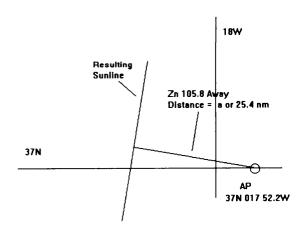


Figure 9-12. Plot the LOP.

## **Advancing LOPs**

# Advancing LOPs

Several methods may be used to advance a LOP. The most common method consists simply of advancing the AP in the direction of and for the distance of the run, as shown in figure 9-13, and drawing the new LOP.

Figure 9-13 illustrates a situation where the AP was advanced parallel to the course line for the distance run, and a new LOP was plotted from its new position. The new LOP was necessary because the same AP would have produced an LOP that would have intersected the course line beyond the limits of the chart. In this illustrative case, it is unnecessary to draw the first dashed construction on the chart.

The manner of advancing LOP from sights of the Moon, Venus, and Sirius (previously illustrated) to obtain an 1815 fix is seen in figure 9-14.

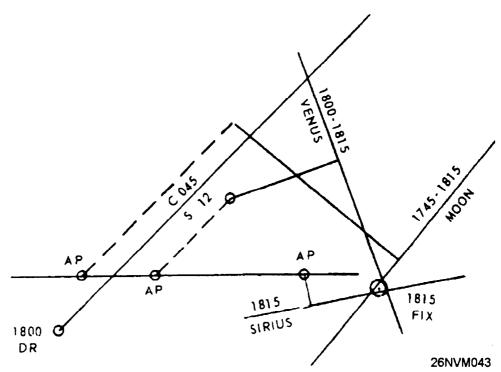


Figure 9-14. A fix from several LOPs.

Three lines of position by observation, like those obtained in piloting, do not always intersect exactly. Quite often a triangle is formed. If one or more of the LOPs must be advanced, the triangle is likely to be larger. Frequently, the center of the triangle is assumed to be the fix.

If, however, one or more lines have been advanced, more weight may be given to a line that has not been advanced, or to a line that the navigator has more confidence in; for example, favoring a first magnitude star over a third magnitude star. In figure 9-14, note that the plots are made from three separate APs, using the same assumed latitude but different assumed longitudes.

## Reducing Stars, Planets, and the Moon Using Pub 229

### Procedure for Stars and Planets

The steps to follow to reduce stars and planets are nearly the same steps that we used to reduce our sunline. The only differences are that in both cases when finding LHA, we must add the value of sidereal hour angle (SHA) to the total GHA to find LHA. Also, in the altitude correction tables for stars and planets there is an additional correction listed for some planets that must be added.

# Procedure for the Moon

Once again the steps for the Moon are the same as our sunline except that the v and HP corrections must be added. These are additional altitude corrections. The v correction is always +. The HP correction for the nearest whole hour of GMT is selected. The v correction is found on the appropriate increments minutes and seconds page in the same manner as the d correction. If the upper limb of the Moon is observed, an additional correction (Add'1 Corr) of -30' is made.

## **Reducing Sights Using Pub 249**

#### General

HO Pub 249, *Sight Reduction Tables for Air Navigation* and the *Air Almanac*, can also be used to reduce sights. This method of sight reduction is used by some navigators; however, the degree of accuracy is slightly less than sight reduction by Pub 229.

#### **Procedure**

Once again, you would have to gather information to reduce; that is, GMT, sextant altitude, and so on.

For our example problem, we will use the following data:

Date: 30 March 1985 GMT: 06 26 21 Lat: 36° 40.1'N Long: 017° 31.6' W

hs:  $40^{\circ} 33.6'$  IC: + 0.8

Hgt of Eye: 50 ft

OPNAV 3130/32 H.O.249 Air Alm	ACTION	Completed Strip Form
Body	Enter the name of the body.	REGULUS
GMT	Enter time of sight.	06h 26m 21s
IC	Enter the index correction.	+ 0.8
D	Enter the dip correction (hgt of eye 50ft) using the altitude correction table from the <i>Air Almanac</i> . (See fig. 9-16.)	- 7.0
R o	This is the refraction correction from the <i>Air Almanac</i> . (See fig. 9-17.)	- 1.0
SD		
ha		
Total Corr (sum)	Total of IC, D, and R o.	- 7.2
hs	Enter the sextant altitude.	40° 33.6'
Но	Apply altitude corrections to find.	40° 26.4'

## Reducing Sights Using Pub 249, Continued

T	O M	1AR	NE	SEX	XTA		LTI	TUDE	S
					(1)	OF THE sextant			
Ht.	Dip	Ht.	Dip	Ht.	Dip	Ht.	Dip	Ht.	Dip
Ft. 0 2 6 12 21 31 43 58 75 93 114	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Ft. 114 137 162 189 218 250 283 318 356 395 437	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Ft. 437 481 527 575 625 677 731 787 845 906 968	21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Ft. 968 1 033 1 099 1 168 1 239 1 311 1 386 1 463 1 543 1 624	31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39	Ft. 1 707 1 792 1 880 1 970 2 061 2 155 2 251 2 349 2 449 2 551 2 655	41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

Figure 9-16. Marine sextant altitude correction from the Air Almanac.

# CORRECTIONS TO BE APPLIED TO SEXTANT ALTITUDE REFRACTION

To be subtracted from sextant altitude (referred to as observed altitude in A.P. 3270)

1	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55
-						Sextant	Altitude					<del></del>
	۰,	۰,	۰ ،	۰ ،	۰,	۰ ،	۰,	۰,	۰,	۰,		
•	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
(	53	59	55	51	46	41	36	31	26	20	17	13
	33	29	26	22	19	16	14	11	9	7	6	4
:	2 1	19	16	14	12	10	8	7	5	4	2 40	1 40
1	16	14	12	10	8	7	6	5	3 10	2 20	1 30	0 40
1	1 2	1 1	9	8	7	5	4 00	3 10	2 10	1 30	0 39	+0 05
1	10	9	7	5 50	4 50	3 50	3 10	2 20	1 30	0 49	+011	-019
	8 10	6 50	5 50	4 50	4 00	3 00	2 20	1 50	1 10	0 24	-011	-o 38
	6 50	5 50	5 00	4 00	3 10	2 30	1 50	1 20	o 38	+0 04	-o 28	-0 54
	6 00	5 10	4 10	3 20	2 40	2 00	1 30	1 00	0 19	-013		-1 08

Figure 9-17. Excerpt from refraction correction tables of the *Air Almanac*.

# Reducing Sights Using Pub 249 , Continued

GMT (UT)	GH	0 :		ec.	ARI		VE		S-4.		JUF		R-2		SA		N O	-	O GH		1001		Lat.		Diff.
h m		,		, ,		,		,	۰	,		,		,		,		,		,		,	N		18
00 00 10 20 30 40 50		20.3 50.3 20.3 50.4	N 3	39.7 39.9 40.1 40.2 40.4 40.5	194 197	19.5 49.9 20.3 50.7 21.1 51.5		14 45 16 46	N14	10	234 236 239 241 244 246	40 10	517		311 313 316 318 321 323	21 52 22	517		82 85 87 89 92 94	03 27 52 16	N26	59 59 59 59 58 58	72 70 68 66 64	. 00000	* * * * *
05 00 10 20 30 40 50	253 256 258 261 263 266	51.2 21.3 51.3	N :	3 44.6 44.7 44.9 45.1 45.2 45.4	262 265 267 270 272	31.8 02.2 32.6 03.0 33.5 03.9	257	33 04 35 05	N14	07	309 311 314 316 319 321	50 20 50 21	517	59	26 29 31 34 36 39	34 04 35	517	23	154 157 159 162 164 166	15 39 03 28	N26	50 49 49 48 48	56 58 60 S	16 15 16 36 17 03	1 1 1
06 00 10 20 30 40 50		51.4 21.4 51.4 21.5 51.5	N 3	45.6 45.7 45.9 46.0 46.2 46.4	277 280 282 285 287	34.3 04.7 35.1 05.5 35.9 06.3	265 267 270 272	06 37 08 38 09	N14	06	324 326 329 331	21 52 22 52 52 23	517	59	41 44 46 49 51 54	36 06 36 07 37 08	S17	23	169 171 174 176 178 181	17 41 05 30 54	N26		A · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	C /	0 0
07 00 10 20 30 40 50	283 286 288 291 293 296	21.6 51.6 21.7 51.7	N :	46.5 46.7 46.9 47.0 47.2 47.3	295 297 300 302	36.7 07.1 37.6 08.0 38.4 08.8	282 285 287 290	41 11 42 13	N14		339 341 344 346 349 351	54 24 54 25	517	59	56 59 61 64 66 69	38 09 39 10 40	517		183 186 188 190 193 195	07 32 56 20	N26	45 44 44 43 43 42	5 12 16 19 22 24	56 55 54 53	6 7 8 9 9 1 2
11 00 10 20 30 40 50	346 348 351 353	52.3 22.3 52.4 22.4 52.4 22.5	N .	3 50.4 50.6 50.7 50.9 51.1 51.2	355 357 0 2	46.6 17.0 47.4 17.8 48.2 18.6	340 342 345 347 350 352	56 27 57 28	N14	03	42 44 47 49	31 02 32 02 33 03	S17	58	116 119 121 124 126 129	49 20 50	S17	23	241 243 246 248 251 253	52 16 41 05	N26	33 32 32 31 31 30	10.0	33 32 n SD on SD	16.0

Figure 9-18. Excerpt from the daily pages of the Air Almanac.

HA	Hc	Zn	Ho	Zn	Hc	Zn								
T	* VE GA		Alphecca		ARCTURUS		# SPICA		REGULUS		# POLLUX		CAPELLA	
180 181 182 183 184	16 15 16 54 17 33 18 12 18 51	053 054 054 055 055	44 14 45 02 45 49 46 37 47 25	087 088 089	55 52 56 36 57 20 58 04 58 47	112 113 114 115 116	38 11 38 32 38 52 39 11 39 29	154 155 156 157 158	5427 5348 5309 5229 5149	233 234 236 237 238	36 10 35 23 34 36 33 49 33 02	280 281 281 282 282	18 48 18 13 17 39 17 05 16 32	314 315 315 315 316
185 186 187 188 189	19 30 20 10 20 50 21 30 22 10	056 056 057 057 057	48 13 49 01 49 49 50 37 51 25	090 091 092	59 30 60 12 60 54 61 35 62 16	118 119 120 121 123	39 46 40 02 40 17 40 32 40 45	160 161 162 163 165	5108 5027 4945 4903 4820	239 240 241 242 243	32 15 31 28 30 42 29 55 29 09	283 283 284 284 285	15 58 15 25 14 53 14 20 13 48	317 317 317 317 317
190 191 192 193 194	22 51 23 31 24 12 24 53 25 34	058 058 059 059 059	52 13 53 01 53 48 54 36 55 24	094 094 095	62 56 63 35 64 13 64 51 65 28	124 126 127 129 131	40 57 41 08 41 18 41 28 41 36	166 167 169 170 171	47 37 46 54 46 10 45 26 44 42	244 245 246 247 248	28 23 27 37 26 51 26 05 25 19	285 286 286 287 287	13 16 12 44 12 13 11 42 11 11	319 319 329 329
	* DENEB		ALTAIR		Nunki		* ANTARES		ARCTURUS		* Alkard		Kockab	
255 256 257 258 259	48 32 49 13 49 55 50 37 51 19	061 061 061 061 061	42 31 43 14 43 57 44 39 45 21	116 117 118 119 120	21 18 21 40 22 00 22 21 22 40	153 154 155 156 157	26 11 26 03 25 55 25 47 25 37	188 189 190 191 192	49 49 49 03 48 16 47 29 46 42	256 256 257 258 259	53 17 52 38 51 59 51 20 50 41	306 306 306 306 306	49 39 49 28 49 17 49 05 48 54	34 34 34 34 34
260 261 262 263 264	52 01 52 44 53 26 54 08 54 50	061 062 062 062 062	46 03 46 44 47 25 48 05 48 44	121 122 123 124 125	22 59 23 17 23 34 23 51 24 07	157 158 159 160 161	25 26 25 15 25 03 24 50 24 37	193 194 195 196 197	45 55 45 08 44 21 43 33 42 46	260 260 261 262 262	50 02 49 23 48 44 48 05 47 27	306 306 306 306 306	48 42 48 30 48 18 48 05 47 53	345 345 345 345 345
265 266 267 268 269	55 32 56 15 56 57 57 39 58 22	062 062 062 062 062	49 24 50 02 50 40 51 17 51 54	126 127 128 130 131	24 22 24 36 24 50 25 03 25 15	162 163 164 165 166	24 22 24 07 23 52 23 35 23 18	198 199 200 201 202	41 58 41 11 4023 39 35 38 47	264 264 264 265 266	46 48 46 09 45 30 44 52 44 13	306 306 306 306 307	47 40 47 27 47 14 47 00 46 46	344 344 344 344

Figure 9-19. Excerpt from Pub 249, Volume I.

## Reducing Sights Using Pub 249, Continued

OPNAV 3130/32 H.O.249 Air Alm	ACTION	Completed Strip Form
GHA(h)	Enter the GHA hour value of Aries from the <i>Air Almanac</i> to the nearest 10 minutes. (See fig. 9-18).	282° 35.1'
Increment (m/s)	Enter the minutes and seconds value from the interpolation tables of the <i>Air Almanac</i> .	1° 35.5'
Total GHA	Add GHA(h) and Increments (m/s).	284° 10.6'
+ - 360 (if needed)		
a Long (+E, -W)	Enter the assumed DR longitude to arrive at an even degree of LHA, add east and subtract west.	17° 10.6'W
LHA	LHA= Total GHA + (v/v or SHA for stars and planets) +E or -W DR Long.	267° 00.0'
a LAT	Enter the assumed latitude.	37°N
Нс	Enter Pub 249 volume I, with the whole degree of LHA for REGULUS, record Hc and Zn (last block). (See fig. 9-19.)	40° 23.0'
Но	Drop down Ho from above.	40° 26.4'
a	Find the difference between Hc and Ho (remember to use Ho MO To). In this example, Ho is more than Hc, so it's named T for towards.	T 3.4'
Zn	Enter the Zn (true bearing).	264°

As you can see, using Pub 249 to determine a celestial LOP is a quick process compared to using Pub 229. Keep in mind that some amount of accuracy is lost.

## **Latitude by Local Apparent Noon (LAN)**

### Time of Meridian Passage

The purpose of knowing ahead of time the exact time of meridian passage (the Sun directly overhead) of the Sun is to allow the observer and recorder to arrive on the bridge a few minutes early. A latitude line from LAN is very useful. It is often used along with two morning sunlines to establish a noon celestial running fix. We will again be using a strip form to complete our sight reduction. First, we will find the time of meridian passage, then we will work the LAN solution. For our example problem, we will use the following data: Date: 30 March 84, DR Lat: 36°36.1'N, DR Long: 19° 22.3'W.

OPNAV 3130/35 LAN			
DR Long	Enter the DR longitud	19° 22.3'W	
STD Meridian	ridian.	15	
d long (arc)	Find the difference be DR Long.	4° 22.3'	
d long (time)	Convert arc to time using the arc to time page in the <i>Nautical Almanac</i> .		
LMT Mer Pass	Almanac for the given date, enter the time of meridian passage (bottom right of page).		
ZT LAN (1st est.)	IF	THEN	1221
	west of the standard meridian	Add d long (time) to LMT Mer Pass.	
	east of the standard meridian	Subtract d long (time) from LMT Mer Pass.	
Rev.DR Long	Enter revised DR.	19° 22.3'W	
STD Meridian	STD Meridian Enter the standard meridian.		
Find the difference between STD Mer and DR Long.			4° 40.0'
d long (time) Convert arc to time.			+19
LMT Mer Pass	Enter LMT for Mer P	1204	
ZT LAN (2nd est)	Add time to LMT Me	r Pass.	1223

#### Taking Sights to Observe LAN

Up to this point we have learned how to find the time that the Sun should be directly overhead. Now we need to know how to observe LAN. We will discuss two methods. The first is called following to maximum altitude; the second is called *numerous sights*.

### Following to Maximum Altitude

The oldest method of determining meridian altitude of the Sun, and the one used most commonly, is known as following to maximum altitude. It is recommended because of its adaptability to various conditions, and because its use develops an insight into how the altitude varies near the time of apparent noon.

At approximately 10 minutes before watch time of LAN, the observer contacts the Sun's lower limb with the horizon in the sextant. He/she then swings the sextant from side to side, and adjusts it until the Sun, seen moving in an arc, just touches the horizon at the lowest part of the arc. This procedure is known as swinging the arc, which was described earlier in this chapter.

As the Sun continues rising, a widening space appears between its lower limb and the horizon. By turning the micrometer drum, the observer keeps this space closed and maintains the Sun in contact with the horizon. The change in altitude becomes slower and slower, until the Sun "hangs". While it is hanging, the observer swings the sextant to make certain of accurate contact with the horizon. He/she continues the observations until the Sun dips, which is a signal that the Sun is beginning to lose altitude. The sextant then shows the maximum altitude attained.

### Numerous Sights

The method of taking numerous sights is a modification of the maximum altitude method. It is useful under conditions where heavy seas, clouds, and the like may make steady observation impossible. Well before watch time of LAN, the observer begins taking a series of altitudes. Their number depends on the difficulties of the situation and the possible error in computed time of transit. He/she reads off the altitudes to a recording assistant, turning the tangent screw slightly after each observation to make sure that the next altitude is an independent sight. Observations are discontinued when the altitude definitely shows signs of decreasing.

Under favorable conditions, even a series of skillfully taken observations may show an occasional erratic deviation from the normal gradual rise and fall. After sights showing a radical difference from the preceding or succeeding series are discarded, however, the hang should become evident, and it should be possible to judge the maximum altitude. The figure selected will probably be less than the altitude shown in one observation and more than that below it. The result should give latitude with an error no more than 1'. This reading is considerably more accurate than could be obtained by a single sight under the conditions described.

### Finding Latitude

As you now know, you must first obtain a sight of the Sun when it's at maximum altitude and the time of observation. With this and a DR position, we can reduce the sight to find latitude; now we can work the second part of our strip form.

OPNAV 3130/35 LAN	ACTION	Completed Strip Form	
LAT by LAN			
ZT LAN (obs)	Enter the ZT of the observation.	1221	
ZD	Enter the zone description.	+ 1	
GMT	Convert ZT to GMT.	1321	
Tab Dec	Enter the tabulated declination for the Sun from the Nautical Almanac.	N 3° 57.9′	
d# / d Corr	Enter the d# from the bottom of the Sun column, remember to find out if dec is + (increasing) or - (decreasing). Find the d Corr from the increments minutes and seconds pages for 21 minutes.	+ 1.0 / + 0.4	
True Dec	Apply the d Corr to Tab Dec	N 3° 58.3′	
IC	Enter the index correction.	+ 1.2	
D	Enter the dip correction.	- 6.9	
Sum	Enter the total of the IC and D.	- 5.7	
Hs	Enter the uncorrected sextant altitude.	57 16.4	
На	Apply the sum of the IC and dip corrections.		
Alt Corr	Enter the altitude correction from the inside cover of the Nautical Almanac.	+ 15.6	
Но	Apply the Alt Corr to Ha.	57 26.3	

OPNAV 3130/35 LAN	ACT	Completed Strip Form	
89° 60'	Enter 89° 60.0'.	89° 60.0	
HO (-)	Enter Ho.	57° 26.3	
Z Dist	Subtract Ho from 89 (	32° 33.7'	
True Dec	Enter True Dec.	N 3° 58.3	
Lat	Use the following rule declination correction:	es for making the	36° 32.0'
	IF Lat and Dec are of different names Lat and Dec are of same names and Lat is less than Dec Lat and Dec are of same names and Lat is greater than Dec	Lat = Z dist - Dec  Lat = Dec - Z dist	
Time			12h 21m 00s

### Closing Remarks

Celestial navigation requires skill gained through experience. This chapter has given you the basic knowledge required to meet the minimum requirements of the Quartermaster occupational standards. This is just the tip of the iceberg; you should strive to perfect your celestial skills. In the event of a large scale war, you may find that all electronic means of obtaining a fix have been knocked out. It's important that electronic fixes are compared to celestial fixes whenever possible. Remember, the prudent navigator uses all available means to accurately fix the ship's position along the intended track.

Quartermasters should study sources other than this RTM to gain additional knowledge on celestial navigation. *Dutton's Navigation and Piloting* is a excellent reference on this material.